

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
River Corridor Working Group Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2002

Attendees:

Russ Walker	Shaun Deeney	Denny Huffman	Catherine Robertson
Travis Baier	Walter Fees	Paul Merluzzi	Jane Ross
Ed Chamberlin	Ted Howell	Jerry Nolan	

Greetings and Introductions

The meeting was called to order, and the first item of business was choosing Russ Walker as the River Corridor Working Group leader, and Jerry Nolan as alternate group leader.

Working Group Discussions

Russ talked to the *Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000* (known as the Act), and noted that the Act specifically excludes the Colorado River from the CCNCA.

Catherine Robertson, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Manager, presented the group with some perspective, as well as impending questions, on management of the river corridor:

- How will activity affect the Wilderness area to the south of the Colorado River?
- How can invasive species, such as tamarisk and Russian knapweed, be managed or eradicated?
- Motorized use will be an issue; we need Congressman Scott McInnis to brief us on legislative intent of the Act as it applies to BLM management of river corridor activities.
- What types of use limits can be decided, i.e., one-way travel, permitting systems, and size restrictions on motors?

The Working Group spoke about the BLM administration on the river, and the agency's obvious trend in restricting, or altogether removing, motorized traffic on the river. Some expressed that the river is no different than the road to Glade Park; it provides access to the Wilderness boundary.

A question was asked about the proposed Wild and Scenic River designation and its status. BLM staff will research this inquiry.

The Act states that historical use will not be changed, and both hunting on the river, as well as using the river for hunting access, fall under that historical use. Reduction in these uses may not meet the intent of the Act.

The Working Group discussed other issues, those being:

- A total of 34 permits are issued to commercial outfitters on an annual basis. Group size is limited, but how those groups are counted is not specified.
- State Parks involvement.
- Enforcement of regulations.
- Both upstream and downstream travel.

The River Corridor Working Group contact is Russ Walker, and the BLM contact is Jane Ross, CCNCA Planning Team Leader, telephone (970) 244-3027, or e-mail jane_ross@co.blm.gov.

The Working Group decided to limit its meetings to four—March 26, April 9 and 23, May 7 (with an option for May 21)—all scheduled for 5:00-7:00 p.m., in the BLM conference room.

The meeting was adjourned.